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the cost and facility of road and railroad construction, in the occupations and thrift of the inhabitants, and even in the distribution and density of the population.

Cornell University.

A PICTURE OF KANO.

One of the photographs illustrating the important paper by Brigadier-General Sir F. D. Lugard, on "Northern Nigeria," in the January number of *The Geographical Journal*, gives a bird's-eye view of Kano, the chief city of the Central Sudan. The picture is here reproduced. It was taken from Dallah Hill, which is far within the city wall, and the view shows nothing of this stupendous structure, which, Sir Frederick Lugard says, is 30 to 50 feet in height, 40 feet thick at the base, is pierced by 13 gates, and has a length of 11 miles.

Barth also stood on Dallah Hill when, in February, 1850, he made the sketch of Kano that appears in his great work. The hill is to the north of the inhabited part of the city, and the view before us stretches away to the south, but does not clearly present the southern part of the town. The long, narrow pond appears exactly where one would expect to see it after studying Barth's map. Beyond the pond we see no distinct feature of the city, though two-thirds of it, according to Barth, is south of this sheet of water.

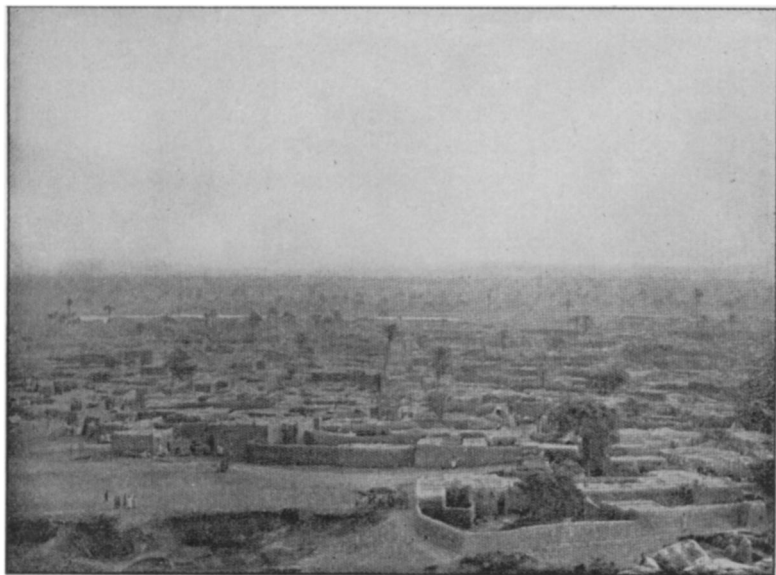
Captain Clapperton visited the city in 1826; but Dr. Barth, who visited all the great cities of Bornu and Hausaland, was the first to describe Kano. He estimated its population at 30,000, but Clapperton gave a higher figure. The city was captured by the British early last year. The brief description of Kano, given by Sir Frederick Lugard in his paper, is printed below:

Kano alone, among the cities of Africa which I have seen, with the exception of Katsena, is worthy of the name of city, for its houses are of solid mud, with flat roofs impervious to fire, and lasting through the centuries, instead of the beehive-shaped huts of the populous towns of the south. Traces of Moorish architecture are visible everywhere, and the horseshoe arch, which some writers assert was introduced by the Arabs from Syria and Mesopotamia, modified by the Berbers and Egyptians, is a feature of the buildings.

I took up my quarters in the small hall of audience, a room 25 feet square,

18 feet high, decorated with quaint shapes and designs in black, white, pale green, and yellow—the latter formed of micaceous sand, which glistens like gold. The dome-shaped roof is supported by twenty arches, all of mud, but admirably fashioned, and converging on the centre . . . Kano thus marks the limit of the northern type of building, of which only occasional reminiscences are seen in some emir or chief's house in Zaria and Bida.

Admirable in design as were the great houses of the king and chiefs of Uganda before the Pax Britannica taught the people to prefer architecture of the railway-shed pattern, they were but of grass and palm-stems, which a fire would destroy in a night; but the greatest fire would leave Kano intact as a city. The city is divided,



KANO FROM DALLAH HILL.

like all others in Nigeria, into quarters where the different races congregate, and it is striking to see whitefaced Tripoli merchants with their wares of tea and sugar, silk and spices, in the Arab quarter of this African city. There are large open spaces everywhere in Kano, each with its enormous hole of reeking sewage, from whence the clay has been dug to build the houses. Unlike Bida, which, as you approach it, looks like a forest, Kano is almost treeless. Over these bare spaces sweeps the dusty wind, and on the margins of the great holes or stagnant tanks the vultures fight for the carcase of some dead dog or the stray leg of a bygone fowl.

The great market is said to contain a floating population of 30,000 persons, and camels, horses, asses, oxen and goats are exposed for sale. Tripoli merchants, Asbenawa from the desert, Salaga merchants from the Gold Coast, and Hausas each sell their own particular class of wares. I would linger here and describe to you this interesting town, the nature of the trade, and the history of its people, but I must pass on with my narrative. Suffice it to say that in an Arabic document obtained by Mr. Wallace some years ago, I find that the history of forty-two kings of Kano is given, covering a period of 768 years. The manuscript breaks off suddenly, and it

is not possible to fix with accuracy the date of the events it records, but the last king is probably identical with the man whom the Fulani ousted, which would carry back the history to 1040 A.D.

Later documents thus assign to the city greater antiquity than was conjectured by Barth, who, on the authority of Leo Africanus, expressed the opinion that early in the sixteenth century there was nothing of Kano excepting a fort on Dallah Hill.

GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

AMERICA.

THE CONTINENTAL PENEPLAIN OF NORTHEASTERN NORTH AMERICA.—The Laurentian Peneplain, proposed by Dr. A. W. G. Wilson (*Journal of Geology*, Vol. XI, No. 7, October–November, 1903), comprises the ancient crystalline area of northeastern North America, or nearly one-fourth of the continent, including all of eastern British America, Baffin Land, the Coast of Greenland, Newfoundland, the Adirondacks, and the crystalline belt of Lake Superior. This physiographic unit, the author states,

“extends through 58 degrees of longitude and 23 degrees of latitude, covering in all an area of over two million square miles.” It is “not a single plain but rather made up of a series of facets intersecting at very low angles, three of which are distinguishable south of the main divide, so there are probably five facets and perhaps more.”

This shield, the Canadian old land, has never been wholly submerged since the close of the Algonkian. In this long period denudation has reduced the area so nearly to base level that the surface presents the truncated stubs of intensely metamorphosed igneous and sedimentary rocks, evidently once deeply buried. Paleozoic sediments, revealed resting on the modified peneplain surface, indicate that the plantation, which was doubtless chiefly subaërial, took place before that period. The features of a plantation surface most evident are the even skyline and the low gradient of the surface. Between the Great Lakes and the Arctic elevations of over 50 feet are rare, and heights of 100 feet stand as landmarks; while levels on the peneplain, run along streams, lakes, and railways for distances of 300, 450, and 300 miles, show an average grade of 2.8, 1.8, and one foot to the mile respectively. This may be compared with the levels run along the railways on the Great Plains, which show a gradient varying from 2.1 to 3.8 feet to the mile. Departures from the normal peneplain type are exhibited